INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEM: CLSA System Reference Program

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS: The CLSA System Reference Program supports regional reference services in all 15 CLSA Cooperative Public Library Systems. Systems are now in the process of developing their Plans of Service for this and other CLSA System level programs for the 2001/02 fiscal year. These plans, due at the State Library on June 1, will be summarized by CLSA staff and presented to the Board for their discussion at the August 2001 meeting. Exhibit A is the cover memo to the forms and instructions. A complete packet is available upon request.

PROGRAM TRENDS: The Governor's proposed budget for 2001/02, as introduced, includes a $28,000 augmentation to the CLSA System Reference Program budget as requested through a Budget Change Proposal submitted in accordance with the Board's action at its August 2000 meeting. The amount proposed is for the net increase in membership for newly formed independent library jurisdictions that have joined Cooperative Library Systems since July 1997.

TRANSITION PROCESS: Staff requests guidance from the Library of California Board in preparing a plan for the transition of this program and its funding to the Library of California for Board consideration, including when to stop requesting additional funds for the CLSA budget. The System Reference Program supports three separate components of reference service (general improvement of local reference, improvement of reference services to the underserved, and interlibrary reference). It appears that funding for the CLSA System Reference Program supports objectives included in the stated intent of the Information and Referral services (Reference) and Training and Continuing Education mandatory program elements of the Library of California. Although not a requirement, each Regional Library Network may apply to the LoC Board for funds to support underserved programs on a region-wide basis. These program elements would be the most likely target areas for transitioning this particular CLSA program into the multitype network of the Library of California.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Consideration of BCP for 2002/03 (June).
2. Consideration of 2001 System population and membership figures (August).
3. Summary of 2001/02 System Plans of Service (August).
4. Consideration of 2001/02 budget (August).

Relevant Committee: Access Services
Staff Liaison: Sandy Habbestad
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